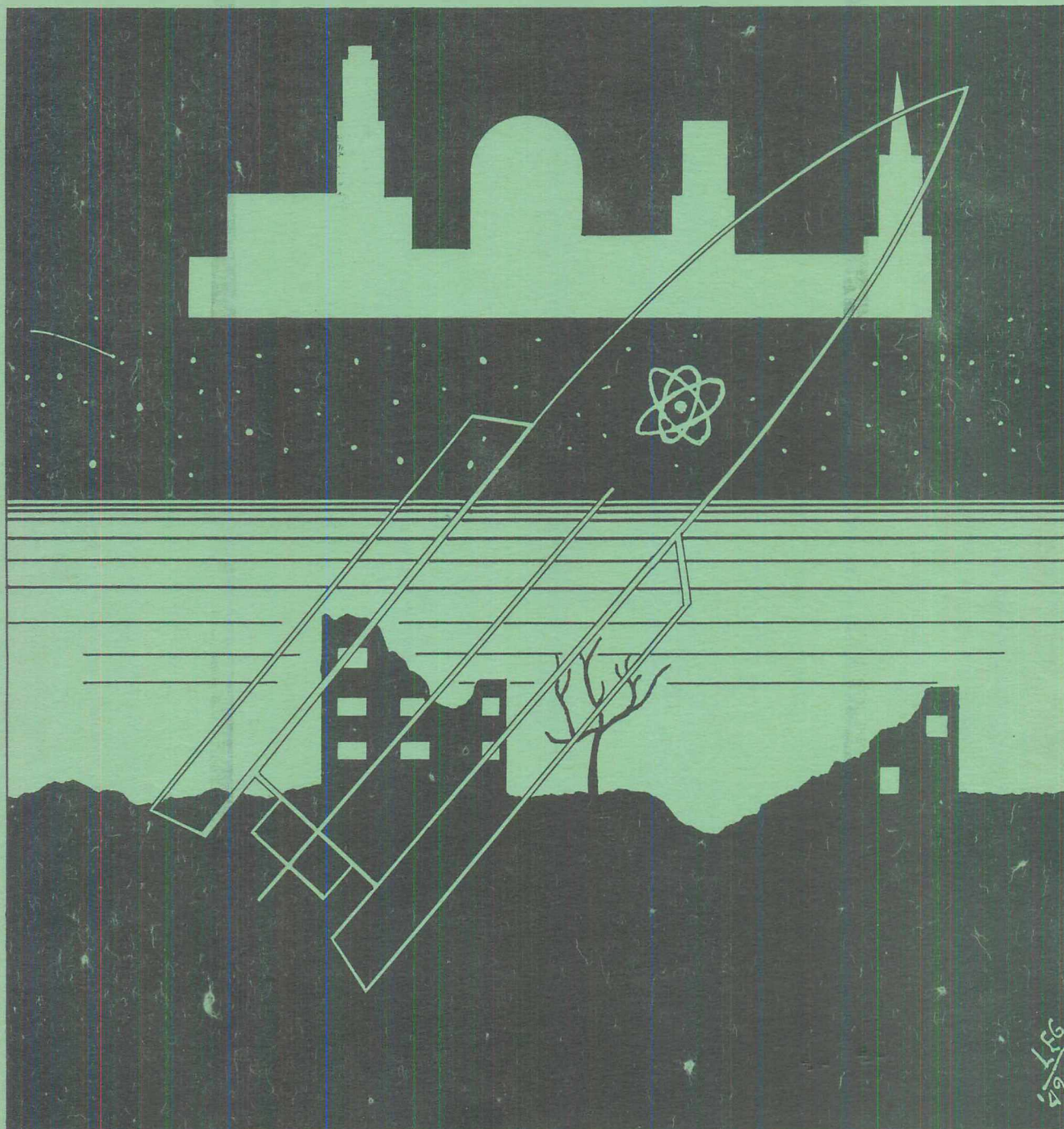


QUANTA



Washington Science - Fiction Association

THE COVER:

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE....."

I

Thru the mist and haze of Tomorrow
I strained my eyes to see
A glimpse of the World of the Future
And what Man's fate might be.

II

I saw the ghost of a city,
Gaunt on a lonely hill,
I heard the shriek of the rockets
Diving in for the kill.

III

The mists then shifted and eddied
Blotting that scene from view,
And the Rocket and Atom together
Lifted man into the blue.

IV

The mists closed in as a curtain
And I no longer could see,
But Man's fate stood out clearly
To Be or Not to Be.....?

-Poem and Illustration By
Louis E. Garner, Jr., '49

2.

TO THE READERS:

Well, here's QUANTA again, and with a new editor. You must not expect much of a change in policy, for QUANTA is an Official Organ of a Science-Fiction club, and as such should be a product of the club as a whole .. not of one person or one group within the club. Under such circumstances the editor must be little more than a co-ordinator.

Many of you may be disappointed in the reversion to the size of paper used in the first issue. We know that most people said that they preferred the smaller size. However, the present editor handled the production of the second issue and is well-aquainted with the difficulties involved in using a non-standard size of paper. We find ourselves a bit pressed for time and feel that the saving of time plus the improvement of interior reproduction will more than compensate for the advantages found in a smaller size fanzine.

QUANTA #3 should reach nearly everyone by the time of the Cinvention. We wish to thank in advance all the people who are running this convention for the fine time I know we will have there. If any of our readers have not yet signed up for the Cinvention, we urge them to do so immediately if there is still time. You cannot even guess what fun one of these conventions is until you have attended one yourself. And don't forget that Washington will bid for 1950. (See "CAPICON IN FIFTY" in this issue)

If you think the material used in this issue is not as wonderful as it should be, I have but one answer: Write some yourself! We have used the best material available for this issue. Thus far we have used material only from members and former members of the Washington Science-Fiction Association, but we are quite willing to use outsiders' material, if it comes up to our standards.

We hope to be with you for many issues yet to come. We would like to see a regular schedule for QUANTA — either quarterly or bi-monthly — as soon as possible. But it is up to you, members and friends of WSFA, to contribute what you can to this 'zine. If you cannot dig up an article or story, at least try to write us a letter giving your views. Our letter department is by no means filled up.

So, until the next issue, good luck and happy reading.

Sincerely,

Franklin Kerckhof

Editor

QUANTA

3.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WASHINGTON SCIENCE-FICTION ASSOCIATION

Price to Non-Members: 10¢

VOL. I, NO. 3

CONVENTION ISSUE

August, 1949

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* * * * *

NOTICE: The proper mailing address for QUANTA and WSFA is:

The Washington Science-Fiction Association

P. O. Box 7595

Benjamin Franklin Station,

Washington 4, D. C.

Please do not use any other address except for personal letters to officers and other members of WSFA. Please make out any checks or money orders for QUANTA, WSFA dues, etc. to Franklin Kerkhof at the above address. Otherwise it is practically impossible to cash them.

WASHINGTON SCIENCE-FICTION ASSOCIATION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this club shall be to bring together at frequent intervals those who are interested in Science-Fiction and Fantasy literature of any nature, and the encouragement of interest among others. For this purpose we shall read and discuss Science-Fiction and Fantasy as well as general scientific literature, carry out appropriate demonstrations, encourage the reading and appreciation of Science-Fiction and Fantasy and the study of science, and perform other activities as may be in sympathy with the foregoing objectives. No part of the net income of this club shall inure to the benefit of any of its members or any private individual.

PRESENT OFFICERS

Louis E. Garner, Jr., President
Robert G. Briggs, Vice-President
Roy W. Loan, Jr., Secretary
Franklin Kerkhof, Treasurer

An election was held in June, 1949, at which the following members were elected to office, effective September 18, 1949:

Roy W. Loan, Jr., President
Philip N. Bridges, Vice-President
Ralph Moritz, Secretary
Franklin Kerkhof, Treasurer
William H. Evans, Trustee
Pamela MacInnes, Trustee
Robert K. Pavlat, Trustee

MEMBERSHIP

Regular members.....Dues: \$4.00/year
Associate members...Dues: 15¢/meeting
Corresponding.....Dues: 50¢/year
Honorary members....Dues: None

QUANTA, the Club's Official Organ, is free to all members.

Meetings are held on the first, third and fifth Sundays of each month at 8:00 P.M., Room 1030, Transportation Building, 17th and H Sts., N. W., Washington, D. C.

INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL SEMANTICS

A TALK BY CAPTAIN JAMES SAUNDERS

INTRODUCTION

By Louis E. Garner, Jr.

Ever since vV's first Null-A novel, many S-F fans have found themselves developing a greater and greater interest in General Semantics. This development of interest has been aided by sly references to G. S. in other stories, by letters in Astounding's Brass Tacks from readers who apparently know something about science, and by the average fan's natural interest in new scientific advancements.

It was not unusual then for Frank Kerkhof, myself and a few other WSFA members, on hearing that there would be a free lecture on G. S. given at an auditorium at the Department of Agriculture, to make definite plans to attend, and to carry those plans to their successful completion. The lecture was, too put it mildly, extremely good. The lecturer...Dr. Irving J. Lee. The sponsor....one Capt. James. A. Saunders.

Later, when we found out that an evening course in General Semantics was to be offered by the Graduate School, Department of Agriculture, there was little question but that some of us would attend.

And it was in taking the course that we became acquainted with Captain Saunders, for he was the instructor, lecturer, etc.

As the course progressed, and we became acquainted with Captain Saunders' outstanding ability as a lecturer, and his excellent knowledge of the subject, it gradually dawned that a lecture by Capt. Saunders would probably be appreciated by the members of WSFA as a group. The Captain, when approached by yours truly (assisted tremblingly by Frank K.), was quite willing, and the necessary arrangements were made.

The lecture was over an hour long, and needless to say, was outstandingly good. And it is on this lecture, presented before a meeting of the Washington Science-Fiction Association, that the following article is based.

James A. Saunders is exceptionally well qualified to speak on the subject of General Semantics. He is a retired Naval Captain, formerly Chief Liason Officer to the Senate Naval Affairs Committee. In addition to being a lecturer on General Semantics at the Graduate School, Department of Agriculture, he has given several radio talks and many public lectures. He has published considerable material on the subject, and is a Trustee of the

Institute of General Semantics.

AND.....he has read both of vV's null-A novels. He was quite interested in vV's treatment of a people trained in General Semantics, and was particularly impressed by vV's adherence to the principles of General Semantics as advanced by Alfred Korzybski. In fact, Frank and I were told that he read THE WORLD OF NULL-A twice, the second time with particular attention to statements concerning G. S., trying to find any statements contradictory to the basic principles of this science. He found no contradictions.

But enough of this. By now you know, or should know, of Captain Saunders' qualifications. If your interest is more than slight... and it must be, or you would not have read this far, your appetite is probably whetted for the real meat. So - PROCEED!

SYNOPSIS OF CAPTAIN SAUNDERS' LECTURE

(The following is a practically verbatim copy of the notes used by Capt. James A. Saunders for his lecture before the Washington Science-Fiction Association on May 1, 1949. I feel that they have little need of any further explanation that I may be able to give.-- Franklin Kerkhof)

1) There are certain principles which are basic in every science and in life situations. These have been formulated in such a manner that they can be taught to children in the elementary grades.)Some of these principles are enumerated as follows: Non-allness, non-identification, non-elementalism, and etc.)

2) Scientific methods are in reality quite simple. The fundamentals of scientific methods can be taught to children in the elementary grades. (Some of the procedures of scientific methods can be listed as follows: Natural order, process orientation, consciousness of abstracting, mathematical methods of prediction, and etc.)

3) Scientific methods are relatively more important than "facts"; differentiate adequately between "facts" and fancy and order and relate our "facts" in such a manner that we can formulate more appropriate descriptions and inferences and decide upon more appropriate courses of action.

4) Our idea of science in the past has been too narrow. At the present time there is a tendency to enlarge the meaning of science by bringing it to bear upon human relationships and social problems.

5) In the past and even today we have a tendency to teach "facts" and neglect to teach scientific methods. We have a tendency to teach people What to think instead of teaching them How to think.

6) The evidence at this time seems to indicate that no person or group of persons can formulate plans for World Peace, World Prosperity, etc., and force the peoples of the world to accept and act upon these plans. Even if perfect plans could be formulated they would not be accepted and acted upon so long as the great masses of the people are unfamiliar with scientific methods and can be swayed by appeals to their emotions and prejudices. We postulate that attempts of this nature reverse the natural order of human progress and will probably continue to fail in the future as they have in the past.

7) We think a more appropriate course of action would be to teach adults who are willing to learn and children basic scientific principles, scientific methods, and the application of these to the solution of their everyday problems.

8) We postulate that if a new generation could be taught the fundamentals of science, the fundamentals of scientific methods, and the application of these to the solution of their everyday problems it would be possible to build, in the near future, a saner, a safer, and a better world.

Scientist, educators, and others familiar with the essence of scientific methods are urged to devote less time and energy to the sciences of inert matter and to turn their talents to the extremely important issues of the relationships between mind and body, of man to man, and of man to the world in which he lives. They are urged not to abandon the scientific method of thinking as soon as they are outside their laboratories, and to devise procedures which would enable the great mass of humanity to apply the discoveries of science and scientific methods to the problems of everyday life.

I would like to add at this point that Captain Saunders in one of a relatively small group of people who are earnestly trying to bring about a set-up such as was given in the above outline. These people devoted much of their time and energy (without any great amount of monetary compensation) to teaching, writing, and lecturing upon the principles of General Semantics. Captain Saunders has not only expounded the teachings of Korzybski but in some respects improved upon them, as have many others working in the field.

In my opinion it is the duty of everyone (science-fiction fans in particular) to learn all that they possibly can about the subject and then try to the best of his ability to spread this knowledge and help allay the misunderstandings which still obstruct its advancement. It is beyond my abilities to attempt any exposition of General Semantics at this point; I can only urge you readers to take a course or at least attend a lecture of G. S. if any are given in your territory. If this is impossible, there are quite a few books on the subject; the reading of which will prove helpful. Information on these books can be obtained by writing to: The Institute of General Semantics, Lakeville, Conn.
(F. K.)

A DEFENSE AND CRITICISM OF S-F

By Chick Derry

Every time I read where some poor schmoe doesn't like a particular author's story or a practicing artist's illustration I get mad!!

Why?

Simple.

Stop and consider this thing that we dote on .. this brain-child of ours: Science-Fiction and Fantasy.

True, we like it above most other types of fiction. But does that give us the right to say we hate a certain thing about it? Yes, in a way it does. But do we say that we hate our wives' or girl-friends' hair-dos just because they happen to change it once? You're damn well right we don't! Well, the analogy applies in this case. We are downright insulting to the man or woman who wrote or drew the story or picture that we don't happen to like.

Can they help the fact that we don't like it? No, and perhaps they know that it is lousy. After all, they wrote it, and most of them are somewhat science-fiction and fantasy fans themselves. They would almost have to be in order to write the stuff.

And, too, remember that they have to live. To most of them the writing trade is a primary means of existence. So if they submitted a story that smelled, maybe they needed the dough, and in their hunger they didn't take time to work it over a bit more. Most writers produce on a schedule, and they do what is necessary to maintain it.

Forget that the stories are produced for you benefit alone. They aren't, and the editor must try to satisfy a helluva lot of different people. More readers aren't fans than are. So if a particular editor leans way over backwards in one issue to get in plenty of sex, give him time to put out the next issue. He might lean just as far to get in plenty of science or whatever you want, thus pleasing you as well as the other guy.

Remember that the pulp publishing business, like the movie trade, found that a large segment of the public doesn't particularly want good stuff. They are so used to poor action and sex tripe that they don't want the really good stuff. The mags had to do what the movies are doing. They are both changing for the better, but it takes time. They must feed Johnny public the good stuff in small doses with a lot of the same old crap sandwiched in between.

You must admit that there are better stories being printed right now than there ever were in the science-fiction trade. True, some of the worst pieces of hack are being printed, too.

Here's another angle to consider. The publishers aren't, by and large, fans. They go by the sales receipts as to whether or not an editor or an artist or a staff writer stays on. And the sex and tripe sell mags to the Johnny Morons, so the editors themselves buy stuff that they don't really want or like personally, because they know that it will sell to the majority. This pleases the publisher, and they get raises instead of getting fired.

Here's something else to look at, too. There are only so many working authors in the United States at any one time. Of that percentage only a certain amount have the ability, knowledge and inclination to write S-F. They can only produce so much. The law of averages says that out of that mass produced so much must be tripe. So instead of griping, start writing some of those gems you're always harping about. It might be a chance to break into the field. I have yet to see more than a few fans who didn't want to be authors.

Science-fiction literature is like a building, all the time being made stronger, better and prettier. It is not the usual run-of-the-mill stories that I notice, but the real, rare classics that linger in my mind. Remember that even though the fancy decorations on that building may attract your attention and make it stand out in your memory, the plain building stone which held it together was vital for just that purpose. If S-F were published for the gems and classics alone, it would last about two months. It takes the tripe and the crap that you howl about to hold the structure together. Without the lousy stories to fill out the mags and sell them to the general public you could never get the rare, once-in-a-while gems that please and remain in your memory for so long.

In parting remember that houses that are too functional become boring as hell. A little decoration makes them livable long after they would otherwise be hated and sold. So, dear editors and writers and artists, remember that although you have to sell to the masses, there are the rest of us, and we appreciate the decoration that you include in the form of fine stories and illustrations.

And fans, they can't put the fine classics in their magazines unless someone writes them. The commercial writers turn them out often, I will admit, but what about those fine stories that I hear spouted over beers and club tables. How about writing them up and submitting them so the rest of us can read them .. and be inspired.

And one last word. If you can't say anything good about a thing, why say anything at all? The small kindness will come back a thousand-fold at unexpected times, for instance, when you meet your favorite author in person. That happens at conventions, you know. . . .

END

CAPICON IN FIFTY!

By Louis E. Garner, Jr.
President WSFA.

It seems somewhat odd that, although six World Science-Fiction Conventions have been held, that though a seventh is soon to start, that one has never been held in the unofficial Capital of the World and the Capital of the Nation.....Washington, D. C.

But this situation is easily corrected....the Washington Science-Fiction Association is bidding for the Eighth World Science-Fiction Convention to be held in 1950. And what better time to hold a Convention in the Nation's Capital? 1950! Turn of the century... symbolic of progress, of the future.

But let us forget these reasons for holding the next S-F Convention in Washington, D. C., and look at a few plain facts.

Perhaps one of the most important things to consider when choosing a Convention city is location. Can the delegates easily get to the city? From this point of view, Washington is ideal as a Convention site.

First, it is located near the east coast, where the vast majority of fans, authors, pro writers, and publishers are located. Secondly, it is located more than half-way down the coast, closer to the South-east than any Convention city yet selected, and thus in a better position to give those fans in the southeast corner of the nation a chance to see a Convention. Fans, who up to this time, have been so far removed from a Convention site as to make attendance a distinct hardship.

How about attractions? Well, there's plenty of these. For fans, there is the Library of Congress, where some of the really rare S-F and Fantasy items may be seen. There's the Smithsonian Institute, with its wealth of scientific displays....the Smithsonian recently featured, incidentally, a display of Goddard's rocket work, including two full-sized rockets. There's the museum of Natural History, where a built-up full-size model of a giant squid or Kraken may be seen, along with dinosaur skeletons and full-sized dinosaur models, as well as meteorites and other interesting items. There's the Naval Observatory, the Science Building, and many other items of scientific and science-fiction interest.

For non-fans who might attend (wives and children)...and perhaps for some of the fans, there's all the regular attractions which have made Washington so justly famous...the beautiful public buildings, the Pentagon, largest office building in the world, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials, the National Gallery of Art, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, with Lee's Mansion and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Capitol, the House and Senate Office Buildings, the Supreme Court, the Folger Shakespearian Library, with its full-sized reproduction of Shakespeare's theatre, the National Zoological park, and other items too numerous to list here.

And as far as the Convention itself is concerned, tentative and preliminary inquiries indicate, even at this early date, that there would be no trouble in arranging one of the best programs ever presented at a World S-F Convention. But, I won't mention what MIGHT be in store, for to do so might be presumptuous.

How about hotels, food, etc? Here again, Washington is ideal for a Convention. There are about 65 hotels in Washington, with rates from \$2.50 to \$14 for a couple, rates, incidentally, which remain the same year 'round. Within the area are 1,000 or more tourist homes or motor courts where even lower rates prevail. Approximately 2,000 restaurants assure an ample food supply.

For those who imbibe, there's plenty of liquid refreshment available, with prices on alcoholic beverages comparatively low.

And how about WSFA, the club asking for the Convention....can they swing a Convention? There's little doubt about the answer to this question....a resounding YES! Let's look at the record.

WSFA has been officially organized for over one year, has put out two copies of a fanzine that has received an "A" rating both times in STARTLING, and has received an excellent write-up in THE CLUB HOUSE. WSFA members, in addition, publish a number of private fanzines, including NECROMANCER, THE SCIENCE-FICTION BOCKMAN, THE CHANGELING, and HAZING STORIES.

The members of WSFA are known for their outstanding support of fanactivity....almost 20% percent of the attendance at the Philadelphia Conference in 1948 were WSFA members. WSFA was extremely well represented at the 1949 New York Conclave. WSFA members have attended many of the World Conventions.

As far as finances are concerned, WSFA is probably one of the richest clubs in the nation. Our comparatively high dues (\$4.00/year) insure that only actively interested fans will join....but, notwithstanding our high dues, the membership usually exceeds twenty.

But the one year of official organization is not a true indication of the experience of WSFA's members. The old Washington Science-Fiction Society was formed almost a year before WSFA, and had a continuous existence up to the formal formation of the new club.

What about fan and pro support? Frankly, I would hesitate to quote the names of the many pros who have said they would support the Eighth Convention in Washington, D. C. But you, as active fans, no doubt know the names of the many famous fellow fans who are actively pushing for the CAPICON.

12.

To mention but a few: Dave and Pamela MacInnes, Goldberg Soda, #1 fan selected at the Torcon, Jim Leary, Editor of ALIEN CULTURE, Lee D. Quinn, Editor of ONE FAN'S OPINION, W. Leslie Hudson, Secretary-Treasurer of NFFF, K. Martin Carlson of NFFF fame, etc., etc.

But I have presented enough facts. Draw your own conclusion - and may that conclusion be, as ours: -

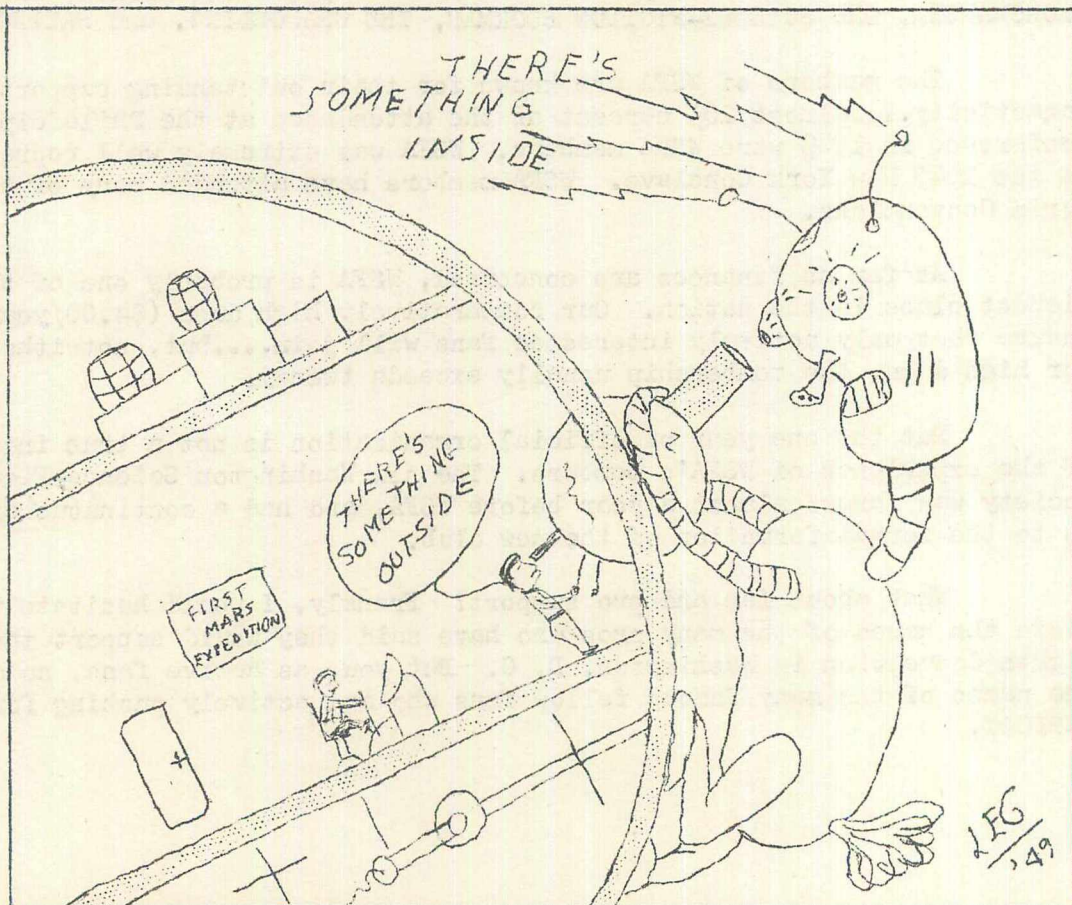
CAPICON IN FIFTY!

-oOo-

SUPPORT THE CINVENTION

If you have not yet done so, we urge you to join the Cinvention Committee for the Seventh World Science-Fiction Convention, to be held at the Hotel Metropole, Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 3, 4 & 5, 1949. Send one dollar to:

Donald E. Ford
129 Maple Ave.
Sharonville, Ohio



LADIES? GENTLEMEN? AND FEN!!! (that was supposed to be a comma, not a question mark, but let it pass.)

All eyes at the Cinvention (or was it the Capicon?) were turned toward the door. In a moment, IT would enter. THEN! The door opened! With a rumble of wheels, the dark shape of IT entered! If you were at the Convention don't tell the rabble what it was). What was it?

Well, if you really want to find out - got forty frog-skins.

(I think we've kept them in suspense long enough, don't you??).

Away with frivolverolity! What you're buying is a genu-wine dyed-in-the-chromium robot - a reasonable duplicate of the one which WSEA (skoal) didn't bring to the Cinvention, and which you might see at the Capicon in 1950.

On to the price list!

MODEL I:

Our simplest and cheapest model. Does not move itself - has wheels in the feet but no motor. One loudspeaker working from a mike jack - (mike not included - tightwads that we are) - jewel eyes with a blinker if requested. No extra charge, in spite of my heroic efforts to have one put in, for the blinker, but it comes to.....\$(How I love that sign)19.95

* * * * *

MODEL II:

The Standard Model - Indicate whether you want outside power or batteries - loudspeaker as above - self-propelled - jewel eyes with blinker - black crackle finish - rotating Atomic beany - flexible arms - jointed (hip and knee) legs. This work of art is worth every cent of the price of.....\$34.50

* * * * *

MODEL III:

The Hyper Model! Loudspeaker - self-propelled - jewel eyes with blinker - rotating Atomic beany - flexible arms - jointed legs - remote controlled steering - built in pile (we won't say of what) - AND the loudspeaker is radio-operated. You can stand at a distance - up to 20 feet - and behind any non-metal and talk thru the speaker without any connections! Naturally, you won't be surprised to find that this masterpiece is.....\$55.00

SPECIAL: These robots have pincer hands that, though not mechanical, can grasp objects weighing not more than two pounds and no more than four inches across. They come in two styles:

VARIANT I:

Standard model. Cylindrical metal, with blinker eyes in front and spring ears on the side; on the top, an "Atomic Beany."

VARIANT II:

Special model. Blinkers in front; the head proper is a glass globe (IT IS NOT A FISHBOWL!!) with clockworks inside; these rotate when included in those models marked "rotating beany." This Variant doesn't have a beany\$1 Extra.

* * * * *

FIDO I:

It won't do for even a robot to be lonely. Disturbs their id. So? Dogs. Automatic ones. Little tin cylinders with canine-oid heads. Wheels and glowing eyes on this one. Johnny (the robot's name) can load it around on a stainless steel string. We're letting it go for the utterly ridiculous price of.....
\$4.00

FIDO II:

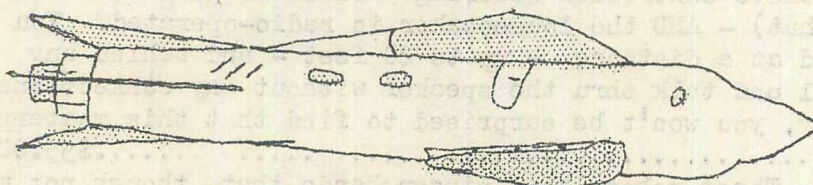
The Super Model. Glowing eyes; operating wheel-propulsion, and a little dingbat to make a sound like barking. Dogs not being supposed to talk, this one can't. A lousy.....
\$10.00

* * * * *

QX! Any Takers? Dig deep, boys!

THE ROBBER ROBOT WORKS
C/O RICHARD EMBY
BOX 2306
FORT HUNT ROAD
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

EDITORIAL NOTE: YOU CAN ALWAYS CHARGE IT UP TO CHARITY!



ROCKET RUNABOUT MODEL Z-36

PRICE: \$8,500.89

ROBBER ROCKET DIVISION of The ROBBER ROBOT WORKS, Hic

WSFA HIGHLIGHTS

by
Bob Pavlat

MEETING OF JULY 31, 1949: A rather small meeting, as are all fifth Sunday meetings of WSFA, only 13 members present. A 14th person was present. Lee D. Quinn of Queens and "ONE FAN'S OPINION." We picked up quite a number of interesting items from Lee, most of them not for publication. Among the items are --- Queens will bid for the 50CON.. unless the bidder at the Cinvention decides not to...How many bids will there be from New York, two or three? Newark too? RUMORS: From other sources.... November is the mystery date for aSF, Amazing does not plan to be left in the lurch....Rog Phillips will be at the Cinvention...will rap?

WSFA has been discussing a pin for the last month or more---as far as I know they haven't planned a secret code yet. That may come. Seriously, it isn't a bad idea. Nice looking job too, thanks mainly to George Earley.

The WSFA '50CON bid was again discussed, but with much less fervor than usual. Possibly because the club was, at that meeting, about evenly split pro-east and pro-west, and everyone is now willing to let the fight be decided at the CON rather than here in Washington.

Among the smoke filled rooms at the CON one will contain many members of the Fantasy Artisans. They are actually trying to get some info on various clubs for the purpose of considering them at that time re: the 50CON. I got a letter from Dietz a couple of weeks ago, answered it, and presented it to the club. The club thought I was biased. A committee meeting was held, and a new letter was drawn up, written by myself, and passed on by committee chairman, Bill Evans. When the letter was read at this meeting there were some doubtful head shakes, and one accusation of true statements being so worded that, even tho they supposedly were pro-WSFA, they turned out pro-west (if anyone doesn't know yet, I back the west). Now I ask you? Maybe it's just as well that there was no carbon of the notes added to the letter by Evans. Since it was too late to stop the letter it was accepted by the club.

Author's Note: It was suggested in a recent article by a certain author that WSFA print some sort of minutes in QUANTA. I was not only the author of that, but it seems I will also be the author of the minutes, because the Secretary's minutes are official and at times not of general interest. Only the notes of one meeting are included, but if they are well received, the notes of all the meetings will become a regular occurrence in QUANTA. The minutes, if continued, will be shorter than they are this time---roughly the size of SHAGGIE'S "Just a Minute."

BOOK REVIEW

ADDRESS UNKNOWN. By Eden Phillpotts. London: Hutchinson, no date.
219 pp. 9s 6d - Reviewed by Roy W. Loan, Jr.

Eden Phillpotts, during some fifty-odd years of writing, has acquired an astonishing versatility. Some two hundred titles, running the gamut of fiction, essays, poetry, and drama, have appeared under his name. To say that he is a versatile writer is not, however, to say that he is a consistently great writer. Although some of his lesser known works are thoroughly enjoyable stories, his real claim to greatness lies in his novels about the Devon moors he knows and loves so well.

Mr. Phillpotts is an objective realist. He develops his thesis in an entirely objective manner, carefully showing both the beautiful and the twisted, the good and the evil. Although *Beauty in Nature* has always been his main thesis, he has not failed to paint the picture of the ugly with equal honesty. He has consistently portrayed the very same Nature as being equally capable of inspiring us or of plunging us into the depths of despair.

He studies his characters meticulously and, deliberately avoiding the heaping of praise upon their virtues or the taking of a contemptuous attitude toward them, limits himself to a systematic delineation of them. The delineation is a direct one; their actions and thoughts are usually reported directly. When they fail in their purpose or meet disaster, it is evident that their misfortune was as inevitable as their birth.

This element of fate, in conjunction with catastrophe, plays an important part in *ADDRESS UNKNOWN*. The author has written a highly imaginative story of two scientists, Marcus Fragsen and Charles Mack, who, free to use their time as they wish, discover another inhabited planet in the course of their radio experimentation. The inhabitants of the planet, as represented throughout the novel by one of them, Zoom, are shown to be highly evolved in their mental and material accomplishments. So highly are they evolved, in fact, that they find it necessary to improve upon human nature.

Marcus and Fragsen, unable to cope with the profundity of Zoom's radio lectures, call in one Bertram Hippersley, a club acquaintance. Mr. Hippersley sits in on Zoom's talks and, after listening to Zoom praise the beauty and perfection of his race and the hopelessness of the human race, calls him to account.

The reader will not find the answers to the ensuing paradoxical issues by a casual reading. On the contrary, the intriguing tale will serve to whet his own thinking abilities; he will have to decide for himself which race is the superior and which the inferior. And perhaps some readers will find, as Mr. Phillpotts has subtly implied, that superiority and inferiority are relative terms, and that it is quite possible for the inhabitants of different planets to develop along entirely different lines and to be utterly incompatible. But regardless of his findings, he will have had the pleasant experience of matching wits with Mr. Phillpotts, an old-timer at this business of portraying the goodness and the evilness of men and "the other people."

* * * * *

TWO TIDBITS

By Phillip Space

I

WHERE ARE THE FANS? WSEA has had several plugs from time to time, either directly or because of QUANTA, in TWS, SS, and AMAZING. Yet we have seldom received more than one or two inquiries from plugs in these 'zines....usually none.

On the other hand, we recently had a letter published in TIME....without a complete mailing address. Results: Eight inquiries from local fans; approximately ten out-of-town inquiries.

The local fans said they read only ASTOUNDING.

Does that give you any ideas?

II

"WE SPECIALIZE IN SCIENCE-FICTION AND FANTASY": Bob Briggs, Frank Kerkhof and myself wandered into a local bookstore not too long agoa bookstore noted (?) for its exceptional (?) collection of Science-Fiction and Fantasy....a dealer who specializes in such, no less.

I asked, suppressing any tendency to smile, "Do you have a copy of NECROMIDON...you know, the book written by the mad Arab?"

The dealer answered quickly - "Certainly!"

Then he stopped...knitted his brow in concentration, then continued - "Well, not right now...I sold my last copy just last week."

He did?

LET'S GIVE EVERYONE A VOTE!

Bill Evans

During the past ten years that there have been Science Fiction conventions there has been considerable dissatisfaction with the method used in selecting the sites for the conventions. In 1940, when Denver had been selected for 1941, some of the fans in the east wanted the convention back "home" rather than in such a remote--for them--place. For a time there was talk of boycotting the Denvention and having two annual conventions, the second in the east, but after a while things quieted down and only the Denvention was held. This year it seems possible that a similar situation may arise, with a less fortunate ending.

The big gripe by Joe Fan though, is that he has no voice in the selection of the site unless he is actually at the convention; and even then very little unless he is in the correct smoke-filled room at the right time. Take the case of the Torcon....

Both these gripes may be corrected by simple measures.

First, every member of the Convention Committee should have a vote. Voting would be by mail, with late-comers able to vote at the convention. Three tellers from the host city would count the secret ballot, and announce the results at the second day's meeting. In case no one city recieved a clear majority of the votes, the two cities with the highest number of votes would be voted on upon the convention floor.

Since it would be a mail ballot, cities, clubs, or other groups wishing to bid for the convention would submit their bids in brief - 500 word - letters, which would be sent out with the ballot to the members of the committee.

Second, to give those fans who are farthest from the current convention, and hence have the most trouble in making the journey, a greater voice in the selection of the next site, the ballots would be weighed. Fans living within 500 miles of the convention city would receive one vote; those within 1000 miles, two; and any over, three votes. The fans would receive, upon registering, one, two, or three ballots. Those people farthest from the convention should have the greatest interest in future conventions due to their inability to come. Under this set-up, each part of the country would have an almost equal vote, not in any one year, but in the long run. The problem of proportional representation handles itself, as does the problem of one group of fans "sewing up" the convention and keeping it in that area.

To ensure secret voting, and yet make sure that the voting was in accord with the regulations, a system similar to that used by some of the big national organizations would be used. Each vote of one, two, or three ballots would be sealed in a small numbered envelope signed by the voter. Upon receipt of the votes, the envelopes would be checked against the list of voters, opened, and the number of ballots checked, and then the ballots, still unread, would be put in the ballot box for later counting. The same procedure would be followed, in general, for personal voting by late-comers. The tellers would have to be familiar with the system to eliminate

obvious pen-names. Thus, Weaver Wright and FJA would have only one vote jointly.

The above proposal, which has been evolved over a period of time, and in conversations with, among others, Frank Kerkhof, Bob Pavlat, Bob Briggs, Chick Derry, Lou Garner, Roy Loan, and George Earley, seems to me the best and simplest way to eliminate a number of gripes from future conventions. It is submitted for the consideration of all fandom.

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A METHOD OF SELECTING WORLD S-F CONVENTION SITES

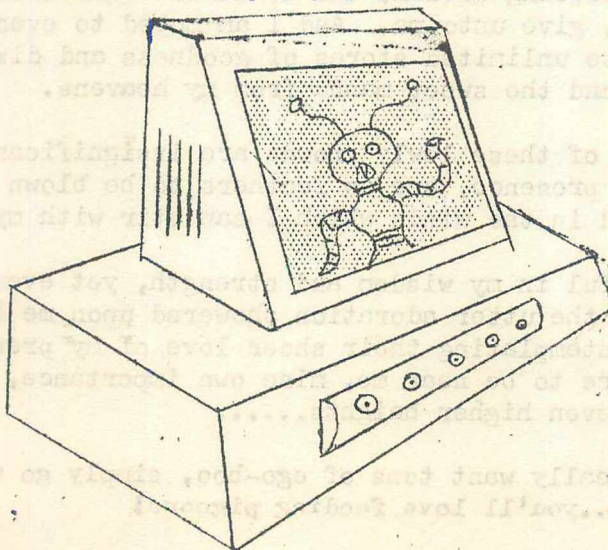
A detailed PROPOSAL, outlining a new method of selecting the Convention sites, has been prepared and will be distributed at the Convention. The proposed method differs from the above plan in one or two minor respects.....particularly as regards the counting of votes.

Under the new plan, the votes would not be weighed. A vote would count only as one vote regardless of the point of origin. This, I feel, is a more democratic method.

Copies of the PROPOSAL have been distributed to a few of the more prominent fans, and comments and criticism invited. Except for a few minor points (mainly concerned with the exact method of handling bids and votes, and time limits) the response has been overwhelmingly in favor of the plan.

Both the PROPOSAL and the above plan are purely personal and do not, at this time, represent the official opinion of the club.....even though many members of the club have expressed their approval and support.

(LEG)



THE GREAT KING

By Louis E. Garner, Jr.

I sit in solemn splendor upon my great throne, high above the multitudes. My lowly subjects crowd ever closer, each straining for a sight of my magnificent presence, each trying to edge closer to my dignified and glorious personage.

With a generous and gracious hand, I dispense manna to the crowdssometimes generous and sometimes careful in my dispensations. They, my subjects, fawn about me, each singing and shouting my praises, each working for my attention, in hopes that I might feel moved to notice them and to extend a particularly choice tidbit....that I might make a contribution greater than those dispensed to the common masses.

My favors are bestowed carefully, with the full knowledge of my superior and all-knowing wisdom.....not to the meek do I give the greatest, nor to those greedy ones who push to the front by sheer physical strength, but to those who have the courage to try and to ask and to work for my favors, regardless of their native strength; and to those who show more courage than the rest....to those who will come to my very hands, humble, meek, yet overcoming their fear of my greatness, acknowledging my superiority and greatness....to those I give the most.

Yea, I dispense manna to the multitudes with hands so powerful that a single clenching could wring the last drop of life from any of my subjects. Generous am I, and good, and powerful, and wise....yea, and beautiful and mysterious to those insignificant crowds who fawn about me.

My blood runs warm, and tiny thrills run rampant over my body as I realize, in my all-seeing wisdom, the wonderful adoration which these, my many subjects, give unto me. And I am moved to even greater generosity...dipping into unlimited stores of goodness and dispensing with an all enclosing hand the sweet manna from my heavens.

Even the greatest of these lowly crowds are insignificant beside my shining and glorious presence, are as feathers to be blown aside by my breath...to be tossed in the winds which I can stir with my hands.

Great am I, powerful in my wisdom and strength, yet even I am amazed and astounded by the utter adoration showered upon me by the lowly ones. Yea, in contemplating their sheer love of my presence, their overwhelming desire to be near me, mine own importance, great as it is, is raised to even higher heights.....

Gosh! When you really want tons of ego-boo, simply go to the nearest park.....you'll love feeding pigeons!

Don't Be H A L F an Editor

by

Bob Pavlat

A rather large number of readers of QUANTA, especially of this convention issue, have published fanzines. Others will publish one or more before all is said and done. This is addressed to the latter group, tho those who have published before can read this, if they have nothing better to do, for the sake of reminiscing and possible agreement or disagreement with what I have to say regarding fanzines.

I have not, to date, edited a single fanzine. I have, however, co-edited one. With that one single accomplishment in-so-far as my publishing proclivities go, I still think that I can say a few things about fanzine publication. More perhaps than some publisher of long standing since he, the well-rounded fan, has forgotten many of the first edition troubles.

HAZING STORIES rolled off the presses on the nights of July 25 and 27. This is being composed on the 28th. HS will be assembled on the 31st, and mailed on the first of August to FAPA and the selected few non-FAPAites who are to get copies. The only other distribution the zine will get will be at the Washington Science Fiction Association, and at the Cinvention. So, in three days working time (not counting stenciling) 160 issues of HS were put out. Total man-hours about 40 for mimeoing and assembling--and that was using an electric mimeo. Count in another 35 hours stenciling time, plus twenty-five hours writing time, - Total -- about 100 man hours. Result: a 26 page zine plus a front cover. That boils down to 4 hours per page, more or less. If you can compose directly on the stencil, that reduces to 3 hours per page, and if you can get your authors to stencil their own stuff, someone else to copy the artwork, and do next to no writing yourself, 2 hours per page is the approximate figure. TWO HOURS PER PAGE (200 copies), that seems impossible, yet it is about what you can figure on. Maybe some of the old hands can reduce that by 50 percent -- I'll have to find out some day. I would say from my reading of Ianey's Memoirs that ACOLYTE took about that amount of his time, but that's my guess.

In other words, fanzines take up a hell of a lot of time. They can also cost money. HAZING STORIES cost nothing except postage, due to certain waste products from hither and yon. An average issue of QUANTA, tho, costs about \$20 before the multilithed cover, which runs another \$8 or so.

HS had no material trouble either. We knew exactly who was going to write approximately what. Being the editors, procrastination was impossible among the authors (well, almost impossible). Three authors, three editors. CHANGELING is the same way --- a one man zine. QUANTA is a club effort. Result---no decent material. Further result---- editorial difficulty in explaining why the zine is late. You should hear the bitches of some of the members when QUANTA is late. Excuse, no material, and it was long ago decided that QUANTA would be strictly club-written. Certain people are nasty about the state of affairs, and are finally finding that their well-manicured little fingers are not

appreciated when they are so avidly grasping the mag. The best thing that could happen would be to turn it over to one of them. And then start kibitzing. Ah, the wonderful world of the future.

There are two things that I will say about fanzines in general, and they are important to the prospective editor of one. First, unless you're an awfully strong character with a knack for getting things done and doing what you want, despite the wishes of others, do not take over the official organ of a club. An OO can be run only two ways: as the professional "yes!" zine for the club, or the same as if it were the personal property of the editor. Kerkhof is still trying to find the happy medium. That is why this issue, in his own opinion, stinks. That, and the fact that there are only a few good writers in the club. Miles Davis, a person for whom I have much more respect in so far as writing prowess is concerned after reading the "R. S. Barber Mystery" (which he wrote) had quit the club. Leo Carroll has left town permanently. Others either can't write, won't write, or are too busy writing for other zines. (My current excuse. I'll invent another one before the next issue. This article is the result of having almost finished HS, if not for that I am afraid this would be the third straight issue of QUANTA with nothing by me.) (Of course, Frank has rejected two of my things - a generally disliked short, and a history of WSFA. He printed his own!)

To get back on the subject, don't publish a club zine unless you can reject things at your own free will, and don't mind missing a dead-line because of dearth of material, and are willing to stretch a point and use outside material. That is, I believe, QUANTA's biggest mistake - using only WSFA material. It is also missing a bet in not printing the minutes of meetings down in a readable style. Something that would make WSFA seem interesting.

The following advice does not apply to publishing parties of the WILD HAIR type, but only to semi-serious zines. That advice is: Don't publish a fanzine unless you have complete control over it. If you want to write for one, you have no worries about the other things that are published. If you are editor of some particular section - art or articles or fiction or poetry - you also have no worries about anything outside of your section. But don't, for the sake of all you hold sacred, co-edit the thing. Derry and I co-edited HS (Briggs was art editor). We get along famously, and have done so for years period. But we both disagreed with the other on a couple of things that slipped in. It made HS less solid than it might have been, had either one of us edited it alone. In addition, we both cut stencils, sometimes leading to one talking about something he thought the other was going to mention, and then didn't. It lead to confusion. Further, some of the stencils were half cut by one person and then continued by another without sufficient indication that there was a change in authorship. If one man does the stenciling that cannot happen. If two or more do it, it shouldn't happen, but it does. At least it did in HS; not once, but twice. Other mass produced fanzines have avoided that, but we didn't. The main trouble came during the last minute work while the mimeoing was actually in progress. The best solution is probably dummyping. For a publishing party, only the taking of pains can be counted on. If everything in HS had had headings, it would have worked out alright, but in one case there were seven blank lines to be filled, and in the other an editorial

was started by one, carried on by another, resumed by a third, and finally finished up by the first. Confusion ran rampant, the only indication of change in two of the cases being a change in type size.

In other words, either be the editor or don't be the editor. As in the editing of OO's there is no middle road.

EDITORIAL NOTE: The above article, of course, is personal, representing the opinions of one individual. These opinions are not necessarily those of the club as a whole, nor do they necessarily represent the opinions of the Editorial Staff of this magazine.

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AND WUS - FAA

Now E. E. Smith, that Campbell man
And Al van Vogt all things command
Egsept, of course, you understand,
There's WSEFA.*

You'd think that Campbell and van Vogt
Could run der world as well as not
Budt unasked help they get a lot
From WSEFA.

Who told 'em two and two makes four
And neffer either less nor more
And all that other ancient lore?
Why, WSEFA!

Who told 'em things they neffer knew?
Who told 'em what they ought to do?
And how to write their stories, too?
That --- WSEFA!

There ain'dt no bleak and lonesome spot
What they don't cheer - I tell you dot!
"They" being Campbell, Smith, van Vogt
And WSEFA!

- Richard Eney, '49

*WUS-faa

WSEFA

LETTERS

P. O. Box 1,
Colesburg,
South Africa,
27 April, 1949

The Editor,
Quanta
P. O. Box 7595
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington 4, D. C.

Dear Mr. Davis,

Thanks a lot for the copy of QUANTA (March) which I received yesterday. It's very nice for a lone fan in a far-away country to hear what you people are doing in U. S. A.

I would very much like to subscribe, but that, of course, is not possible, as all import from dollar countries to S.A. has been prohibited. If, however, you have a copy that doesn't know where to go, sling it my way - I'll gladly pay the postage.

If you have room and would like to know something about South Africa, I will gladly contribute. We have some curious places here as well as natural phenomena that defy scientific explanation. Just let me know, and I'll write - compensation? A stray copy of QUANTA! By the way, although I'm a sheep-farmer, I have a B. Sc. degree with Physics and Chemistry as major subjects.

Hoping to hear from you and with best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

P. Haupt

* * * * *

THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER....WE ALWAYS LIKE TO HEAR FROM OUR READERS, AND A LETTER FROM A FAN SO FAR DISTANT IS ESPECIALLY WELCOME. DON'T WORRY ABOUT QUANTA....YOU'RE ON OUR PERMANENT MAILING LIST...GRATIS. OF COURSE, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEND SOMETHING FOR QUANTA, WE'LL BE GLAD TO CONSIDER IT.

NOTE TO OTHER FANZINES: HOW ABOUT GETTING ON THE BAND WAGON....HERE'S A SINCERE FAN IN A PREDICAMENT...WHY DON'T YOU SEND HIM COPIES GRATIS? POSTAGE TO S. A. IS ONLY 1½¢ EVERY TWO OUNCES, THIRD CLASS, AT PRESENT.

- THE EDITORS.

Dear Mr. Kerkhof:

No, I will not allow you to write a story of my life. I believe that A. E. van Vogt has done a superlative job in his two stories, "World of A" and "Players of A", though his attempt was strictly fictional. I have decided to allow no true biographies for a time, no matter what the inspirational loss to the world.

I will, however, be glad to supply you with the information for which you asked. The true philosophy which I expound is the belief that there are secret groups of humans with the ability to travel through space. These humans are the Secret Rulers of the other worlds of this and all nearby solar systems, which systems are populated by the descendants of human slaves transported there by the space travellers. They are referred to as the "younger ones." The members of this Younger Race do not generally know that they are ruled by Terrestrial humans. Only a select few, traitors who aid the humans, know of the existence of the space travellers. This explains why the E-T races have never visited Earth; I think they're property. The idea impertinently suggested by certain scoffers, that the extra-solar intelligences haven't had time to develop interstellar ships, or at least none of those near us have, can be ignored as a vile attempt to distort the real truth, probably deliberate. The idea of a police force of the space travellers, which disguises all blunders on the part of irresponsible members of their clique, explains part of these distortions.

Some of the proofs of this are found in the facts that the African island of Bucovina, the chief base of the space travellers, sinks out of sight every time a human being gets within seeing distance of it, and that in the year 1899 the British battleship "Montagu" was sunk in mid-Pacific by a spaceship which fell on it, destroying it utterly. There were no survivors of this disaster. There are millions of additional proofs, many of which will appear in the first issue of our society magazine, BELIEF, due to appear for the first time next month. I might add that the symbol of our club is the exclamation point (!).

very truly* yours,

SIG: Gilbert Gosling

*this "extra-ordina-RAY" occurrence has utterly no significance, Mr. Shaver.

* * * * *

GILBERT GOSLING IS THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CHORTLEAN SOCIETY,

-----THE EDITORS

B O O K M A N ' S

- Washington Headquarters For Imaginative Literature -

oOo

Selected Titles From Our Stock Of Science Fiction And Fantasy

- Blackwood. THE WAVE. London, 1916. First Edition. Very Good used copy. \$3.50.
- Bond. THE THIRTY-FIRST OF FEBRUARY. Gnome Press. New. \$3.00.
- Campbell. THE MIGHTIEST MACHINE. Hadley. Out-of Print. New. \$3.00.
- Crawshaw-Williams. HEAVEN TAKES A HAND. London, 1949. New. \$3.00.
- Douglas. THEY WENT. London, 1920. Very scarce. Fine copy. \$9.50.
- Du Maurier. TRILBY. New York, 1894. First edition. Fine copy. \$3.50.
- Eddison. MISTRESS OF MISTRESSES. New York, 1935. First Edition. Very good copy. \$4.00.
- Eddison. STYRBIORN THE STRONG. London, 1926. First Edition. Inscribed presentation copy. Fine. \$6.50.
- Farjeon. DEATH OF A WORLD. London, 1949. New. \$2.50.
- Hesse. MAGISTER LUDI. London, 1949. Nobel Prize Winner. New. \$4.50.
- Hubbard. TRITON. Fantasy Publishing Co. New. \$2.50.
- Orwell. NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR. Harcourt, Brace. New. \$3.00.
- Phillipotts. ADDRESS UNKNOWN. London, 1949. New. \$3.00.
- Pratt & deCamp. LAND OF UNREASON. New York, 1942. First Edition. Fine copy. \$4.25.
- Romilly. BLEEDING FROM THE ROMAN. London, 1949. New. \$3.00.
- Smith. SKYLARK OF SPACE. Hadley. Second Edition. Out-of-print. New. \$3.00.
- Summers. MALLEUS MALEFICARUM. London. Non-fiction. \$4.50. A profound study of witchcraft.
- Thomas. BROTHERHOOD OF MT. SHASTA. Devorss & Co. New. \$5.00.
- Wright. THE WORLD BELOW. Shasta. New. \$3.50.
- Zagat. SEVEN OUT OF TIME. Fantasy Press. New. \$3.00.

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